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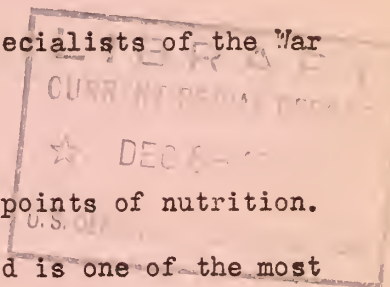
# homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1943

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GROWING THE FOOD FOR WAR. Information from production specialists of the War Food Administration.



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In the past, people didn't know much about the fine points of nutrition. But they've known, practically since time began, that food is one of the most important things in life. More than a century ago a French writer said something about food that would be hard to improve on even today.

He said, "The destiny of nations depends on what they eat." Think that over, a minute. "The destiny of nations depends on what they eat." That's just what our enemies are saying, as they starve the conquered countries to feed themselves. And it's what we're saying, too, as we fight them by producing more and more food for our fighting men and our civilians.

This war is a battle of many weapons...and food is one of the most important. Every woman in America realizes food is a fighting weapon. She knows it as a consumer--because she buys and prepares the food of the nation.

But there's another side to the story of women and food. Women aren't only consumers of food. They're producers... important producers... of food for war.

During 1943 our country produced more food than ever before in history. And that fact is all the more impressive when you realize that seven years ago-- in 1937-- our total production of food reached a new all-time high record...and it's been going up every year since. Every year since 1937 we've produced more than the year before... this year we've done it again.

And women helped to achieve this amazing record of production. They helped by working on the dairy and livestock farms...by driving tractors... they helped by harvesting grain, and picking fruit and vegetables. On thousands of farms, the



women of the family helped grow the food...and in addition, 300,000 women from towns and cities were placed in farm jobs through the U. S. Crop Corps.

Altogether, an average of more than one and a half million women worked on farms during the first nine months this year--and in the peak harvest season, almost two and a half million women were working on the farms.

And not only on the farms--in towns and cities, too, women helped produce food. Women were the prime movers behind the twenty million victory gardens that loaded our pantry shelves with eight million tons of food--four to five billion cans and jars of good home-grown fruit and vegetables.

The tremendous amount of food we've grown this year means we'll have plenty to eat, even though we're feeding ten million hungry men and women in uniform, and helping feed our allies, and the starved people we free from our enemies.

Just for comparison, let's take an average of food production from 1935 to 1939-- years when the American people ate well. This year (1943) our food supply is thirty-two percent--almost one-third-- higher than during those years. Our fighting men get thirteen percent of our food... another ten percent goes to lend-lease...but that still leaves those of us here at home almost one-tenth more food than we had in 1935-39. And-- the ten million men now in uniform were civilians back in that period. They helped eat from the civilian supply, then.

So that's the picture: about a third more food this year than in the well-fed pre-war years...twenty-three percent going to military and lend-lease... and ten million fewer people to eat the civilians' share of the food.

You can see from that, there isn't much danger of our going hungry. To be sure, we'll have to change the emphasis of our eating-- go lighter on the meat, heavier on cereals and soybeans... lighter on commercially canned food, heavier on fresh and home-canned vegetables and fruits. But in spite of shortages of favorite foods, our food this year is giving us more of the essential elements of nutrition that we got from our food back in the 1935-39 period.





Well, that's the food situation this year. Now, what about next year? To win a war, you have to plan far ahead... so already we're looking ahead to the job of growing food for war... and for the peace in the years to follow, when our food needs will still be running high.

During 1944, every farm, every acre, will have to produce to the limit. Farmers will have to grow the right crops, and the right amounts of them. And this huge production job must go on in the face of wartime shortages of machinery farm supplies, and farm labor.

And next year's food isn't a job for the farmers alone. The twenty million victory gardens this year proved that town and city people have a great contribution to make toward growing food for freedom. Next year we'll need even more victory gardens-- twenty-two millions of them. That means planning now, for the spring garden. Victory gardeners in 1944 will have plenty of seed and fertilizer... they'll have more, and better organized, garden committees to advise them... and most of them will have the benefit of at least one year's experience to help them grow better gardens. Twenty-two million victory gardens next year will mean ten million more tons of food.

On farms, and in victory gardens, the women of America have shown they can meet the challenge of war. Growing food takes hard work-- long, tedious hours of work. But women helped grow the bumper crop this year. They can do the job again next year.

The old saying used to be "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." The woman's hand has come a long way from rocking the cradle. Now, it's on the plow, the hoe, the tractor, the milking machine... But it's still helping guide the destiny of the nation, by producing the food that fights for our freedom.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY 101

LECTURE NOTES

WINTER 1989

LECTURE 1: THE PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

1.1 THE PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

1.2 THE PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

1.3 THE PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

1.4 THE PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE

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